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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

SHUNICHI IGARASHI

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLN. : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH
(Based on PCT/JP00/09265)

FILED: HERewith

FOR: METHOD, MATERIAL, AND
CONFIGURATION FOR
REINFORCING A STRUCTURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy attached to read as follows:

5. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 1, wherein an adhesive layer is formed on at least one side of the high-ductility material, and the high-ductility material is affixed to the member via the adhesive layer.
6. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 3, wherein the high-ductility material is wound on the member such that the overlap portions are bonded together and/or such that the high-ductility material is bonded to a surface of the member at at least a single zonal region extending along a length direction of the member.

9. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 1, wherein the high-ductility material is a fibrous or rubber tape-like sheet material wound spirally while overlapping at overlap portion and is combined with being rolling rolled tightly on the member by a plurality of turns to thereby be rolled in layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

10. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 9, wherein the high-ductility material is a fibrous or rubber tape-like sheet material and is spirally wound on the member along an overall length of the member while overlapping at overlap portions before or after the high-ductility material is rolled on the member at upper and lower end portions of the member by being rolled tightly on the member by a plurality of turns to thereby be rolled in layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

12. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 1, wherein the high-ductility material is disposed such that a cavity or a weak layer is interposed between the high-ductility material and the member.

17. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 12, wherein an adhesive layer is formed on at least one side of the high-ductility material, and the high-ductility material is affixed to the member via the adhesive layer.

18. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 15, wherein the high-ductility material is wound on the member such that the overlap portions

are bonded together and/or such that the high-ductility material is bonded to a surface of the member at at least a single zonal region extending along a length direction of the member.

20. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 13, wherein the high-ductility material is a fibrous or rubber tape-like sheet material and is disposed such that it is wound spirally on an outer surface of the member in a fixed and overlapping condition and is combined with being rolled tightly on the member in a plurality of layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

21. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 20, wherein the high-ductility material is spirally wound on the member along an overall length of the member such that it is wound spirally on an outer surface of the member in a fixed and overlapping condition before or after the high-ductility material is rolled on the member at upper and lower end portions of the member by being rolled tightly on the member in a plurality of layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

23. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 13, wherein the high-ductility material is disposed such that a cavity or a weak layer is interposed between the high-ductility material and the member.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present preliminary amendment the claims are amended to no longer recite any multiple dependencies. Further, Claims 9, 10, 20, and 21 have been written to more fully write out the subject matter previously incorporated by the multiple dependencies.

The presently submitted claim amendments are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--5. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 1 [or 4], wherein an adhesive layer is formed on at least one side of the high-ductility material, and the high-ductility material is affixed to the member via the adhesive layer.

6. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 3[or 4], wherein the high-ductility material is wound on the member such that the overlap portions are bonded together and/or such that the high-ductility material is bonded to a surface of the member at at least a single zonal region extending along a length direction of the member.

9. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in [any one of Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8] Claim 1, wherein the high-ductility material is a fibrous or rubber tape-like sheet material [is disposed such that spiral winding described in Claim 3] wound spirally while overlapping at overlap portion and [rolling described in Claim 7 arc] is combined with being rolled tightly on the member by a plurality of turns to thereby be rolled in layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

10. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 9, wherein the high-ductility material is a fibrous or rubber tape-like sheet material and is spirally wound on the member along an overall length of the member [as described in Claim 3] while overlapping at overlap portions before or after the high-ductility material is rolled on the member at upper and lower end portions of the member [as described in Claim 7] by being rolled tightly on the member by a plurality of turns to thereby be rolled in layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

12. (Amended) A method for reinforcing a structure as described in [any one of Claims 1 to 11] Claim 1, wherein the high-ductility material is disposed such that a cavity or a weak layer is interposed between the high-ductility material and the member.

17. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 12 [or 16], wherein an adhesive layer is formed on at least one side of the high-ductility material, and the high-ductility material is affixed to the member via the adhesive layer.

18. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 15 [or 16], wherein the high-ductility material is wound on the member such that the overlap portions are bonded together and/or such that the high-ductility material is bonded to a surface of the member at at least a single zonal region extending along a length direction of the member.

20. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 13, wherein the high-ductility material is a fibrous or rubber tape-like sheet material and is disposed such that [spiral winding described in Claim 15] it is wound spirally on an outer

surface of the member in a fixed and overlapping condition and [rolling described in Claim 19 are combined] is combined with being rolled tightly on the member in a plurality of layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

21. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 20, wherein the high-ductility material is spirally wound on the member along an overall length of the member [as described in Claim 15] such that it is wound spirally on an outer surface of the member in a fixed and overlapping condition before or after the high-ductility material is rolled on the member at upper and lower end portions of the member [as described in Claim 19] by being rolled tightly on the member in a plurality of layers such that at least a rolling start end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an outer surface of the member while a rolling termination end portion of the high-ductility material is bonded to a corresponding portion of an underlying layer of the high-ductility material.

23. (Amended) A configuration for reinforcing a structure as described in Claim 13 [or 22], wherein the high-ductility material is disposed such that a cavity or a weak layer is interposed between the high-ductility material and the member.--